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17 MAR 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

FROM: _____
                  Director of Security

SUBJECT: SECOM Comments on SSCI Report on Security

1. At your instruction I have reviewed the SECOM comments on the SSCI draft report on security. As you know, my Office has been representing CIA on the Stilwell Working Group which is preparing a report from the President to the Oversight Committees on the status of U.S. counterintelligence and countermeasures. It is planned that this report will include national security policy objectives, a "blueprint" for enhancements through 1991, a plan to move toward the objectives, and a mechanism for program review and oversight. The SSCI draft report has been carefully reviewed by the Working Group. Most of its recommendations will be addressed in some form in our final report.

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2. The following comments address specific issues raised by SECOM:

°   Regarding creation of another level of security policy direction:

    SECOM expressed concern that the "overarching structure" would form single security policies for certain programs in all departments and agencies and would result in a "least common denominator" approach in which the more effective programs would be watered down. We share this concern regarding specific programs, such as the proposed single-scope (actually reduced-scope) background investigation for Top Secret and SCI, and have joined SECOM in actively opposing such recommendations.

    We are in general agreement with SECOM concerns regarding all of the specific issues mentioned, beginning at the bottom of page 2 of the SECOM paper. However, we do have concerns that the requirement for

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personal interviews for Secret clearances (last paragraph, p.5) may be unreachable for most agencies without considerable resource enhancements. The Department of Defense representative has voiced similar concerns.

There is no doubt that the SSCI report is heavily weighted toward DoD issues and does, in fact, contain some unfounded negative references to the CIA security program. We have turned the other cheek when possible but have voiced our objections where appropriate, for example, to ensure that issues such as unauthorized disclosures are given proper attention.

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3. With respect to the comments about page 45 of the draft SSCI report concerning the increased scope of the activities of the Director, Information Security Oversight Office (D/ISOO), we share SECOM's concerns and vigorously presented the Agency's objection to endorsement of four of the ISOO initiatives as they represent infringement on the DCI's authority to protect intelligence sources and methods and have other flaws, as well. Due to the detailed nature of our concerns in this regard, the ISOO initiatives matter will be the subject of separate correspondence.

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